

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7101
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SGEN, EGEN, BR
SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 0461, (B) BRASILIA 0462

1. EMBOFF WAS VISITED ON APRIL 12 BY DOM ANGELO RIVATO, BISHOP (PRELATE NULLIUS) OF PONTA DE PEDRAS, PARA STATE, BRAZIL, AND DIRECTOR OF AN INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF) SPONSORED PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF MARAJO, PARA. DOM ANGELO SAID THAT HIS PROJECT, THE MARAJOAN AGRO-PASTORAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF PONTA DE PEDRAS, WAS ENCOUNTERING SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AS A RESULT OF THE IAF'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE GOB'S DECEMBER REQUEST THAT THE FOUNDATION SUSPEND PAYMENTS TO ALL ITS BRAZILIAN PROJECTS PENDING A GOB REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE IAF PROGRAM IN BRAZIL (REFTELS AND PREVIOUS). HE ADDED THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF THE REASONS FOR THE FUNDING SUSPENSION LAST JANUARY WHEN IAF REPRESENTATIVE CAROL MICHAELS VISITED THE MARAJO PROJECT.

2. DOM ANGELO STATED THAT HE HAD COME TO BRASILIA TO SEE IF HE COULD OBTAIN GOB APPROVAL FOR THE IAF TO RECOMMENCE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MARAJO PROJECT. HE SAID THAT HIS NEXT CALL
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WOULD BE ON GENERAL GUSTAVO MORAES REGO, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENTS MILITARY HOUSEHOLD, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS AN OLD FRIEND. HE WONDERED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD ALSO APPROACH GOB FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. EMBOFF OUTLINED JANUARY VISIT OF IAF REPRESENTATIVES DELAROSA AND REILLY, AND EXPLAINED THAT A GOB INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

WAS CURRENTLY EVALUATING IAF PROGRAM IN BRAZIL, ADDING THAT IAF AND EMBASSY HAD AGREED LAST JANUARY THAT EMBASSY SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN IAF-GOB DISCUSSIONS OR NEGOTIATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, EMBOFF INFORMED DOM ANGELO THAT REILLY AND DELAOSA HAD SPOKEN LAST JANUARY WITH HEAD OF

FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GUY BRANDO) AND SUBIN DIRECTOR ALVARO GURGEL DE ALENCAR. DOM ANGELO STATED THAT HE WOULD ALSO TRY TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF MARAJOAN PROJECT, AND IAF PROGRAM IN GENERAL, WITH THESE TWO.

4. DOM ANGELO--WHO MADE A POINT OF EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY--STATED THAT THE REASONS FOR WHAT HE CALLED THE GOB'S "OPPOSITION" TO THE IAF WERE POLITICAL. ACCORDING TO DOM ANGELO, CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE GOB BELIEVE THAT THE IAF IS PROVIDEING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIALLY SOCIALLY-DISRUPTIVE PROJECTS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES THAT GOB INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE EVALUATING IAF PROGRAM, WHICH WAS SUPPOSE TO HAVE CONCLUDED ITS DELIBERATIONS BY LATE FEBRUARY, HAS NOT YET TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE ISSUED ANY DECISION. WE ARE PREPARED, IF IAF SO DESIRES, TO APPROACH GOB AND INQUIRE ABOUT PROGRESS OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS. DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE. END COMMENT.
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JOHNSON

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